



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

ANDREW S. LEVIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan
State Capitol Lawn
Lansing, Michigan 48909

September 28, 2010
Meeting Minutes No. 278

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Lawrence García called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Lawrence García, Olga Hernández-Patino, Art Reyes, Gil Guzman, Mike Ramírez, Leonard Savala, Maria Elena Rodríguez, Rick García, Danny Inquilla, Alicia Villarreal, Debra Ehrmann,

Excused Absence: Art Luna, Michael Espinoza, Fred Feliciano

Staff Present: Marylou Mason, Victoria García

II. Introduction of Commissioners

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Welcoming Remarks

No welcome

IV. Approval of Absences:

MOTION: Commissioner Guzman motioned to approve the absences of Commissioner Luna, Espinoza and Feliciano. Commissioner Hernandez-Patino supported the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Guzman motioned to approve the agenda of September 28, 2010. Commissioner Reyes supported the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Guzman motioned to approve the minutes of July 30, 2010. Commissioner Inquilla supported the motion. Motion carried.

VII. Public Forum

None

VIII. Executive Reports

Chairperson's Report: Chairman García stated that with the end of the Hispanic Caucus members' terms due the term limits, he wondered about next year's event for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Ms. Mason said that hopefully we will have another Hispanic Caucus with individuals who are running for office (Harvey Santana-Detroit, Art Reyes-Flint and another individual from Holland).

Chairman García inquired about the possible change in executive administration and how it would affect the office and office operations.

Ms. Mason stated that she was advised the Commission was safe from budget cuts for the next fiscal year and any possible changes in administration would include new department heads, letterhead, etc., but didn't expect any changes for the Commission.

Chairman García stated it would be a good idea to reach out to the legislators by either scheduled meetings or a welcome letter. This issue will be discussed further in New Business.

Chairman García stated he doesn't know if he will be re-elected as chairman again but he wanted to thank all Commissioners for their support. He stated it has been an honor to serve as chairman the last year.

B. Executive Director's Report:

Director Mason entertained any questions in reference to her written report.

Ms. Mason stated that two of the Commission appointments that expire in December 2010 were filled by the Executive Office and a letter was sent to Acting Director Levin. However, the office saw in the MIRS newsletter that 79 governmental appointments were rejected by the Senate. Ms. Mason stated she discussed this with Deputy Director Susan Corbin. Deputy Director Corbin suggested she discussed this with the Executive Office Appointments Office and possibly have Senator Garcia's office handle the issue.

Director Mason stated that since the annual retreat is now going to be in January that we need to discuss the location. The annual retreat is usually held in Port Huron. There was discussion on this matter. The retreat needs to be held where we can have an agency host the retreat and pay for the meeting site and food for break and lunch. She added that Rep. Espinoza would like the Commission to come to his district for the retreat. Ms. Mason stated the retreat needs to be at a location that is quiet and away from distractions so Commissioners can work together and get to know each other better. The Commission needs to set the agenda and initiatives for the coming year. In addition, the election of officers will be held at the two day retreat.

Commissioner Rick Garcia suggested the Girl Scout Facility as a possible venue for the retreat. Commissioner Savala stated he would check into the possibility of Michigan State University hosting the retreat. Commissioner Rodriguez stated would check into the possibilities in her area. Commissioner Ramirez also offered to check into Western MI University hosting the retreat.

Commissioner Guzman suggested inviting legislators to the retreat.

Retreat dates were discussed and decided upon. The retreat will be held all day on Thursday, January 13, 2011 and half day on Friday, January 14, 2011. Commissioner Rick Garcia and Leo Savala will work on the planning committee for the Retreat.

Since election of officers will be held in January 2011 and the Commission will not be meeting, a nominations committee was established. Commissioners Mike Ramirez and Art Reyes will conduct the elections process with the assistance of the office.

Due to the fact that the Commission will be having a regular meeting for the remainder of the year, it was decided that a conference call is needed. It was decided that the conference call will be held after the elections on November 18, 2010 at 2:00pm. An agenda will be sent one week in advance of the conference call.

Ms. Mason announced that she had been contacted by Ms. Maria Holmes of Comcast. Ms. Holmes offered the Commission the opportunity to apply for a grant for \$15,000. The Commission would assist with three mini-grants to be paid out to three identified Hispanic agencies that are not affiliated with NCLR.

The grant needed to be submitted within two days. Ms. Mason stated she discussed the matter with Commissioner Rick Garcia. He agreed to write the grant with the assistance of the office. Ms. Holmes announced on the day of the event that it was fairly certain that the grant would be awarded to the Commission. Ms. Mason stated this was only possible through the hard work of Commissioner Garcia and she again thanked him.

Commissioner Garcia commented that Ms. Holmes was extremely helpful during the grant application process. He believes the approval of this grant will give us momentum to apply for other grants.

Ms. Mason added that Commissioner Garcia may also be applying for another grant that is funded through both Comcast and the National Council of La Raza for \$50,000 and \$100,000.

IX. Committee Reports:

Economic Development: No report.

Education: No report.

Legislative & Civic Engagement: No report.

X. Old Business:

- 1) Hispanic Heritage Month Event, Student Summit, and Recognition Reception: The student summit and lunch on the lawn were both successful events. There were approximately 250 students in attendance at the student summit. The speaker for the students was Dr. Juan Andrade, President, US Hispanic Leadership Institute.

Commissioner Maria Elena Rodriguez thanked the staff for their hard work on planning the day's events.

Director Mason commented that she was interviewed by the media/Channel 6 Lansing. The entire interview was conducted in Spanish and will be aired in Spanish as well.

Ms. Mason stated the office received more scholarship applications than we had received in the past. It was a very difficult process, and sometimes emotion process to read and decide on the winning applications. There were so many needy students. Ms. Mason stated she would contact Lansing Community College, Michigan State University and Davenport University to see if they would be willing to offer a scholarship to a needy Hispanic student.

One of the winning students contacted our office to advise Ms. Mason that his father advised his employer of his son's award so he could have the evening off to attend. Unfortunately the employee told the father that if he didn't show up for work, he would be fired. There was discussion about whether anyone could pick up the student so he can attend the reception.

Ms. Mason stated awardees for the reception were:

- ❖ Mr. Frank Venegas, Hispanic Entrepreneur of the Year awardee
- ❖ Salvador Torres, Arts Awardee
- ❖ State Rep. Rashida Tlaid, Special Recognition
- ❖ Minerva Rosales, Lifetime Achievement Awardee
- ❖ Jim Jaime – Business/Economic Awardee
- ❖ Andrea Rodriguez, Educator Awardee
- ❖ Maria Starr, Advocate Awardee

Ms. Mason announced that she would be attending the NCLR Affiliates Council Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Oct. 7-8, 2010.

- 2) Commissioner Hernandez-Patino stated the sub-committees need to reestablish meeting times and dates that are suitable for all members for best participation. She stated it was very important for committees to be functional.
- 3) Commissioner Hernandez-Patino stated the second report that was completed by the Julian Samora Research Institute after the second conference on Latino Affairs is a very good document that we could use at the retreat. She stated she will make it into a .pdf file and send to the office for distribution.

XI. New Business:

- 1) New Legislators Welcome: Chairman García would like to send a welcome letter to the new legislators that will be starting their terms on January 1, 2011. He commented that each Commissioner should get to know their legislator and be a liaison for them. Chairman Garcia stated he would draft a letter for legislators and the office will send to Commissioners for review. After January 1, 2011, the approved welcome letter will be sent to new legislators.
- 2) Commissioner Guzman announced an education conference that will be held in Kalamazoo in April 2011.
- 3) Commissioner Reyes is working on voter registration event with the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, La SED, and Southwest Solution.

Commissioner Garcia stated he will be working with Commissioner Reyes on the voter registration effort with the US Hispanic Leadership Institute.

Commissioner Reyes also stated he has a copy of a Welcome Mat that is a resource for immigrants. He will try to get an electronic copy so we can put it on our website.

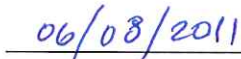
- 2) Next meeting date and location – 1) Conference call on November 18, 2010 @ 2:00pm 2) Location: TBD – January 13-14, 2011 – annual retreat.
- 3) Ms. Mason said she was sorry that the day turned out so cold to meet outside under the tent and thanked Commissioners for their patience and understanding.

Adjournment at 3:00p.m.

Prepared by Commission staff:



Lawrence T. García
Chairperson



Date



Olga Hernandez-Patino
Secretary